

NOTES

WE greatly regret to have to announce that the state of the venerable Prof. Sedgwick's health is such that he will be unable to deliver his usual course of lectures during the ensuing academical year. His place will be filled *pro tem.* by Mr. John Morris, Professor of Geology at University College, London. Though we cannot but regret the cause which has taken Prof. Morris to Cambridge, his nomination by Prof. Sedgwick to serve as his deputy is a cause of congratulation to the University.

IN Sir John F. Burgoyne, F.R.S., who died on Saturday last, in the 90th year of his age, the English army has lost the most eminent man of science among her officers. In both civil and military capacities, as chairman of the Board of Public Works in Ireland from 1830 to 1845, and at the Siege of Sebastopol, he evinced engineering talents of no ordinary kind. Sir John Burgoyne's only son perished in the *Captain*, being in command of that ill-fated vessel.

DR. HENRY S. WILSON has been appointed Demonstrator of Anatomy at the University of Cambridge. Dr. Wilson formerly held a similar office in the University of Edinburgh.

THE Professor of Chemistry at Cambridge, Mr. Liveing, will give instruction in practical chemistry on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 1 P.M. The instruction will be given at the University Laboratory. The Laboratory will be open for students daily from ten A.M. until six P.M. The Demonstrator (Mr. Hicks, B.A.) will attend to give instruction on mornings and afternoons alternately. The Professor of Chemistry will deliver a course of lectures in Spectrum Analysis and some other special branches of chemistry on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at noon, commencing on October 26, in the Chemical Lecture-room, next Downing Street. No fee will be required of those who do not wish for a certificate.

THE Oxford School of Science and Art, in connection with the Science and Art Department of the Council on Education, South Kensington, has been granted the use of the New University Museum at Oxford, where lectures will be given this month on Mathematics (Elementary), Magnetism and Electricity, Animal Physiology, and Inorganic Chemistry. We regard this act of the University as one of very good omen.

THE combined examination held by Magdalen and Merton Colleges for scholarships in mathematics and natural science terminated on Saturday, when the following elections were declared:—Magdalen College: Demysip in Mathematics—Mr. R. Corkling, Manchester Grammar School. Demysips in Natural Science—Mr. E. Steel, Manchester Grammar School; Mr. G. R. Christie, Magdalen College School. *Proxime accesserunt* for natural science demysip—Mr. Hamsworth, Mr. Hopwood, Manchester Grammar School. Merton College: Mathematical postmastership—Mr. F. G. Stokes, Cowbridge. Natural Science postmastership—Mr. Lane, Cheltenham Grammar School. There were fourteen candidates for the mathematical and sixteen candidates for the natural science foundations.

AT the Oldham School of Science and Art, three Queen's medals have been awarded by the Department to the artisan students of this school, the silver medal for mathematics to John Armitage; a bronze medal for machine construction and drawing to John Robertson; a bronze medal for applied mechanics to Thomas Marsden. Mr. Armitage has also gained a Whitworth Scholarship this year.

WE have received the examination papers for the Scholarship and Exhibition in Natural Science recently award by St. Mary's Hospital Medical School. The questions appear to have been very carefully framed to show the attainments of the candidates in chemistry, physics, zoology, and botany, and we congratulate

this young school on setting so admirable an example to its older sisters in encouraging a real knowledge of science among its students.

EARL GRANVILLE has shown his interest in scientific instruction by offering prizes in chemistry, mechanics, and mathematics to the examinees at the Margate centre of the Oxford Local Examinations.

TO Sir John Lubbock, who has recently been twitted on his predilections for prehistoric man, we commend a letter which has recently appeared in the *Times* to the effect that a large section of the old Temple of Avebury has just been parcelled off into building allotments, and that the remainder is likely to be similarly dealt with before long. It may be that from a utilitarian point of view this can no longer matter, inasmuch as this celebrated remnant of the "Stone Age" has been so thoroughly wrecked that scarce anything now remains of it. According to Dr. Stukely, the Temple was nearly perfect in the time of Charles II., who visited it, and had plans and drawings made, copies of which are reproduced in Dr. Stukely's works. There were then standing between 200 and 300 stones, and it was, in his opinion, as superior to Stonehenge as a cathedral would be to a parish church. All that now remains of this wonderful monument, and of the two avenues, each of nearly a mile in length, by which it was approached, is about two-thirds of the great circular earthen mound by which it was enclosed and about twenty of the stones. The rest have been utilised by the inhabitants of the village to build their cottages, erect their parish church, make bridges, stone fences, and mend the road. It is said that a beershop was built out of a single stone. This is encouraging!

THE death is announced of Mr. Thomas Pilgrim, engineer, who died on the 6th inst., at the age of seventy-one years, at his son's residence at Plumstead. For the last thirty-five years Mr. Pilgrim was intimately associated with Mr. Francis Pettit Smith, and with the introduction of the screw-propeller. He acted as chief engineer of the *Archimedes*, the first ship ever sent to sea propelled by the screw.

THE annual Exhibition of Fungi was held at the Royal Horticultural Gardens, on Wednesday the 4th inst., and was decidedly better than any of its predecessors. Nearly all the British edible and poisonous fungi were shown in a living state, including several rare species. The visitors showed the greatest possible interest in the plants exhibited, and the Fungus exhibition was one of the best attended of the year. The prizes for the best collections of edible and poisonous species, offered by Mr. W. W. Saunders, were in the first place awarded to Mr. English and Mr. W. G. Smith; but, through some informality on the part of these exhibitors, the first prize was ultimately conferred on Messrs. Hoyle and Austin, of Reading.

MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE has taken an honourable lead among our public schools in the cultivation of science, and we therefore turned over with more than ordinary interest the leaves of the Report of its Natural History Society for the half-year ending Midsummer 1871, just received. We do not look to these reports for papers of original research that materially advance our scientific knowledge; rather, for such as will in the first place show an accurate and careful observation of the phenomena of nature on the part of the writer; and, secondly, that will promote the study of natural history among his hearers. We are disposed, therefore, to agree with the secretaries that the production at the meetings of these societies of papers which show a very limited amount of knowledge, if only such knowledge as is shown be the result of honest work, is better than having no papers at all, and to endorse their remark in the preface, that "failure is the indispensable ingredient of success;

and that if the Society is worth anything at all, it is strong enough to outlive many unsuccessful papers." Judged by this standard, the Report before us is decidedly satisfactory. A few only of the papers read during the half are printed at length; but they contain evidence of much careful work in the various departments of natural science. Only one field day was held during the half; and the further publication of the new edition of the "Marlborough Flora" is postponed till the next number. The committee reports that the Botanical Garden, which was started last half in the corner of the Wilderness, has fully realised the hopes of its originators. We confidently expect from the Marlborough College Natural History Society a long career of usefulness, and no small share in moulding the scientific tastes of the rising generation.

IN our last week's number we referred to the Burmese hairy woman. A correspondent of the *Times* has supplied some additional information. He writes: "When I was at Mandalay in 1859, I saw the same woman and three of her children. The eldest and youngest were hairy like their mother, while the second, like his father, presented no such peculiarity. The husband was a man who report said had been induced to wed this woman to become possessed of the marriage portion which the King of Burmah had promised to bestow upon her on her bridal day. The bridegroom was a plucky individual at any rate, though his motives may have been somewhat mercenary. The hairy woman, whose name I now forget, had a pleasant and intelligent face—there was nothing whatever repulsive in it. The hair on the face and breast was several inches long; on the forehead it was parted in the middle, and blended with that of her head. Of a light brown colour on her cheeks, it faded gradually towards the bridge of her nose, and the centre of her lips, chin, and neck. Those of your readers who have a copy of Colonel Yule's narrative of the embassy to Ava will see a good likeness of the woman and a description of herself and family."

THE *Pall Mall* promises a novelty in literary publications. An English periodical is to be printed in Berlin, bearing the title of *The German Quarterly Magazine*. Its object is to make the treasures of German learning accessible to the English speaking public. Two of the most eminent literary men of Germany, Profs. Virchow and Von Holtzendorff, have undertaken its joint management, conducting the editing alternately, so as to offer in one number articles chiefly on Natural Science under the great physician's direction, and in the following essays on historical and political subjects published under M. Von Holtzendorff's supervision.

MESSRS. ASHER AND CO. announce for November, "Man in the Past, Present, and Future: a Popular Account of the Results of Recent Scientific Research, as regards the Origin, Position, and Prospects of the Human Race;" translated from the German of Dr. L. Büchner, by Mr. W. S. Dallas, F.L.S.

THE first two parts are published of a new edition of Griffith and Henfrey's "Micrographic Dictionary." The names of the editors, Dr. J. W. Griffith, the Rev. M. J. Berkeley, and Prof. T. Rupert Jones, are a guarantee that the treatment of the various subjects will be carried down to the present state of scientific knowledge; and that the book will be indispensable to every biologist and student of the microscope.

MR. ROBERT GRAY, late Secretary to the Natural History Society of Glasgow, has issued a prospectus of his work shortly to be published, "The Birds of the West of Scotland, including the Outer Hebrides, with Occasional Records of the Rarer Species throughout Scotland generally." Since the publication of the works of Sir William Jardine, Prof. Macgillivray, and Mr. Selby, nothing in a collected form on the Birds of Scotland has been brought under the notice of ornithologists, and the book seems likely to fill a useful place in ornithological literature.

A NEW description of lamp for street lighting has recently been experimented on in London, the principle of which is the application of reflectors, in order to bend down and utilise the amount of light which is at present wasted by upward radiation. It is manifest that the rays of light from a street lamp which now strike the eye of a spectator placed on the ground are only a small portion of those actually emitted by the flames. The rays which pass through the upper portions of the sides of the lantern, or through its sloping roof, are entirely dissipated, or at best, if partially and imperfectly reflected by clouds or atmospheric particles, become visible only in the form of the red glow which overhangs a distant town. Mr. Skelton, the inventor, calculates that about two-thirds of the light given by the gas flame are in this way lost, and he has arranged strips of looking-glass in such a way that the loss will be effectually prevented. The upper half of each side of the lamp, and the whole of each side of the sloping roof, are occupied by a frame, in which the strips are placed with their reflecting surfaces downwards, in a manner somewhat analogous to the laths of a Venetian blind. The precise character of the effect produced will depend upon the distance of the strips apart, upon their width, and upon their angle of inclination; but the general result is, subject to small variations, that the street receives three times as much light as would fall upon it through lanterns of the ordinary kind. The frames holding the strips are glazed on both sides, and made dust-proof, so that the mirrors will not themselves become soiled or tarnished, and the reflector as a whole can be cleaned in the ordinary way, by simply wiping the glass. The plan is equally applicable to every form of lamp, and the patent includes the application of prismatic reflectors, which would present advantages in certain cases.

WE learn from the *Photographic News* that a correspondent, writing from Florence, says:—"The Ruballino Society have lent their steamer *Sardinia* to Mr. Josellis for his marine explorations. Mr. Josellis has invented a marine photographic apparatus connected with a diving bell, by which photographs of the 'world below the sea' can be taken. This diving-bell can be made use of in many ways, but one can understand how useful to natural science a series of negatives (to be afterwards enlarged) of the myriads of zoophytes found in the subaqueous world would be." Good news this for the managers of the approaching four years' dredging expedition. We should like, however, to hear something more of the principles of the apparatus.

THE editor of the *Scottish Naturalist* proposes to do for the Lepidoptera of Scotland what has been so well done for British plants in the *Cybele Britannica*. He solicits the assistance of all persons acquainted with the subject in ascertaining the distribution of the species throughout the country, which for that purpose is divided into thirteen natural districts. In addition to the district distribution, information is solicited on the following points:—The vertical range of each species; the relation between the range of a species and that of its food-plant; the relation between the range of a species and the geological formation of the district; the influence of the proximity of the sea, for some insects (as is the case with certain plants) appear to occur at a higher north-latitude on the sea coast than inland; and local races or varieties. The list will be illustrated by a map of Scotland. It will appear primarily in the *Naturalist*, but a limited number of copies will be printed in a separate form.

THE ratio of suicides has been established by M. Decaisne recently before the French Academy of Sciences. It is in London only one in 175 deaths; in New York, one in 172; in Vienna, one in 160; but in Paris, it has reached one in 72. The number of suicides from drunkenness, which in 1848 was 141 for all France, reached 401 in 1866. We doubt the accuracy of all these figures.